

Indigenous Pharmacology

What is Dravya in Ayurveda

- Dravya is the substance which shelters Guṇa (quality) and Karma (action) and has Samavāyi Sambandha (inherent relationship) with them. Dravya has the ability to perform action independently while Guṇa, Karma cannot perform an action without the assistance of Dravya.

Formation of Dravya

- Dravya is formed by an appropriate combination of Pṛthvī, Ap, Teja, Vāyu & Ākāśa Mahābhūta.
- Eventhough Dravya is composed of Pañcamahābhūtas, depending on the Pradhānyata of Mahābhūta, the Dravyas are classified into Pārthiva, Āpya, Āgneyā, Vāyavya and Ākāśīya

Ideal Drugs

- Commonly and abundantly available
- Should be appropriate in the given conditions
- Can be utilized in different forms
- Should have best therapeutic properties

Why herbs/drugs can be used as medicines?



Equality of qualities
Poison?

Four Major Branches of Dravya (Drug Knowledge)

- **Nāma–Rūpa Jñāna (Pharmacognosy)**
 - Identification and nomenclature of drugs.
 - Study of morphology and characteristics of medicinal substances.
- **Guṇa–Karma Jñāna (Pharmacology)**
 - Study of properties (Guṇa) and actions (Karma) of drugs.
 - Explains how drugs produce therapeutic effects.
- **Prayoga Jñāna (Pharmacotherapeutics)**
 - Clinical application and therapeutic use of drugs.
 - Selection of appropriate medicines for different diseases.
- **Samyoga Jñāna (Pharmacy)**
 - Preparation, formulation, combination, and processing of drugs.
 - Includes principles of compatibility and formulation design.

- These encompass:

- Identification
- Collection
- Classification
- Therapeutic actions
- Toxicity
- Compatibility
- Drug utilization

Scope of Dravya Jñāna

- Drug identification.
- Collection and preservation of medicinal materials.
- Classification of drugs.
- Understanding metabolic and pharmacological activities.
- Therapeutic applications.
- Drug compatibility and incompatibility.
- Toxicity and safety considerations.

Importance of Dravya in Ayurveda

- Dravya (Drug) occupies the second position in:
- **Chikitsa Chatushpada**
- Bhishak (Physician)
- Aushadha (Drug)
- Upasthata (Attendant)
- Rogi (Patient)
- Drugs are essential for disease management and restoration of health.

Properties of Drugs

- **Five Factors Responsible for Drug Action**
- According to Ayurveda, the actions of a drug are expressed through:
- **Rasa** (Taste)
- **Guṇa** (Qualities)
- **Vīrya** (Potency)
- **Vipāka** (Post-digestive effect)
- **Prabhāva** (Specific or unique action)

Role of properties

Factor	Major Function
Rasa	Produces immediate/local effects
Guṇa	Influences local pharmacological actions
Vīrya	Responsible for potent systemic actions
Vipāka	Governs post-digestive and metabolic effects
Prabhāva	Unique action not explainable by Rasa, Guṇa, Vīrya, or Vipāka

CHART SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF DRAVYA ACCORDING TO SOURCE



-
- Vanaspathi(Big Tree)
 - Vanspathya (Medium tree)
 - Virudha (Shrubs)
 - Oshadhi (Herbs/plants die after fruits ripen)

- **Karya Dravya (Effect)**

Chetana (Living)

Achetana (Non-living)

- **Chethana**

Anthaschethana

Nidikumbha Sunflower

Bahranthaschethana

Evident movements

Karana Dravya (Cause)

Nine eternal causal
substances:

Akasha

Vayu

Agni

Jala

Prithvi

Atma

Manas

Kala

Dik

Classification Based on Origin

- **Jangama**
- Animal origin
- **Bhauma**
- Mineral and metal origin
- **Audbhida**
- Plant origin
- This is one of the most important Ayurvedic classifications.

Classification Based on Usage

- **Ahara Dravya**

- Food substances
- Rasa dominant
- Nourish Dhatus

- **Aushadha Dravya**

- Medicinal substances
- Virya dominant
- Used in disease management

Based on Rasa

- **Six Rasa Groups**
- Madhura (Sweet)
- Amla (Sour)
- Lavana (Salty)
- Katu (Pungent)
- Tikta (Bitter)
- Kashaya (Astringent)

Classification Based on Pharmacological Effect

Dosha Shamaka

- **Dosha Shamaka**
- Pacify Doshas
- Vata Shamaka
- Pitta Shamaka
- Kapha Shamaka
- **Dosha Prakopaka**
- Aggravate Doshas
- **Swasthyakara**
- Promote health and prevention

Classification Based on Ahara Varga

- Shuka Dhanya
 - Shami Dhanya
-
- Mamsa
 - Shaka
 - Phala
 - Harita
 - Madya
 - Jala
 - Gorasa
 - Ikshu
 - Kritanna
 - Aharopayogi

Classification Based on Drug Action

- **Charaka's 50 Mahakashayas**
- Examples:
- Jivaniya (to give life)
- Brimhaniya (Nourishing)
- Lekhaniya (Emaciating)
- Dipaniya (Appitaizers)
- Balya (energizers)
- Varnya (complexion)
- Hridya (cardiotonics)
- Rasayana (Rejuvwnation)
- Prajasthapana (Fetilizers-Increase the fertility)
- Vayasthapana (Longevity promoters)
- Functional grouping of medicinal drugs.

-
- Classifications based on
 - 5 MB
 - Veerya
 - Vipaka
 - Pharmacological action (Karma)

Based on Therapeutic interventions and actions
